



FACT SHEET: MIKE POMPEO’S TROUBLING RECORD & RHETORIC

Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo’s history of expressing anti-Muslim views and associating with known Islamophobes disqualifies him from representing the United States on the world stage. He is also an anti-diplomacy ideologue, an advocate for a war of choice with Iran and a defender of torture. Senators should reject this unacceptable nominee to serve as our country’s top diplomat.

Anti-Muslim Comments and Associations

Pompeo has a well-documented history of making bigoted comments about Muslims and associating with known Islamophobes.

- **Promoted Islamophobe Frank Gaffney:** Pompeo has appeared [more than 20 times](#) on the radio show of Frank Gaffney, which the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has [identified](#) as, “dedicated to advancement of myriad conspiracy theories and anti-Muslim extremism.” The ADL also notes that Gaffney “employs anti-Muslim bigotry as a tool” and that “Gaffney’s work has also influenced violent extremists” including Norwegian terrorist Anders Behring Breivik.
- **Called US Muslim Leaders “Potentially Complicit” in Terrorism:** Speaking on the House floor, Pompeo [defamed](#) American Muslim leaders, opining, "it's been just under 2 months since the attacks in Boston, and in those intervening weeks, the silence of Muslim leaders has been deafening...When the most devastating terrorist attacks on America in the last 20 years come overwhelmingly from people of a single faith, and are performed in the name of that faith, a special obligation falls on those that are the leaders of that faith...Instead of responding, **silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts and, more importantly still, in those that may well follow.**”
- **Denounced Religious Pluralism:** Pompeo has cast doubt on his respect for Americans’ fundamental religious freedom with [statements](#) such as “**America had worshipped other Gods and called it multiculturalism.** We’d endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.”

Pompeo has also engaged in criticism of former President Obama – a Christian - clearly meant to insinuate that he is secretly Muslim.

- **Suggested President Obama had an “Affinity” for anti-Christian Extremism:** Responding to anti-Muslim commentator Frank Gaffney’s assertion that President Obama was conveying “kind of an affinity for, if not the violent beheading and crucifixions and slaying of Christians and all that, but at least for the cause for which these guys are engaged in such activities,” Pompeo [agreed](#), “**Every place you stare at the president’s policies and statements you see what you just described.**”

- Accused President Obama of Siding with “the Islamic East”: Responding to an assertion that President Obama supports Islamists in Egypt and Iran, and is on ‘their side’, Pompeo [said](#), “The data you point out is correct and I’m not afraid to talk about the data. The data is very clear. **Every time there has been a conflict between the Christian West and the Islamic East the data points all point to a single direction.**”

Favors War with Iran over Diplomacy

Pompeo has a long record of advocating for military intervention against Iran and has pushed the president to unilaterally violate the JCPOA nuclear agreement with Iran.

- Openly Advocated for Bombing Iran amidst Talks: Pompeo advocated for bombing Iran in the midst of successful diplomacy toward the JCPOA in late 2014, [arguing](#) “In an unclassified setting, it is under 2,000 sorties to destroy the Iranian nuclear capacity. **This is not an insurmountable task for the coalition forces.**”
- Urged Trump to Violate the JCPOA: [Nearly alone](#) among the president’s top security advisors – and contrary to the [consensus](#) of the US intelligence and military establishment - Pompeo has [urged](#) the president to unilaterally abrogate the nuclear agreement.
- Characterized the JCPOA as “Surrender”: Pompeo derided the nuclear agreement and the tireless efforts of the American diplomats who negotiated it, [saying](#) “This deal allows Iran to continue its nuclear program - **that’s not foreign policy; it’s surrender.**”
- Peddled Disinformation on the JCPOA: Falsely characterizing the nuclear agreement, Pompeo [claimed](#) the JCPOA “**has virtually guaranteed that Iran will have the freedom to build an arsenal of nuclear weapons at the end of the commitment.**”

Defender of Torture & Guantanamo

Pompeo has sought to obscure and deny the torture and other mistreatment of detainees in the War on Terror.

- Apologist for Torture: Responding to the 2014 release of the Senate torture report, Pompeo [said](#): “Our men and women who were tasked to keep us safe in the aftermath of 9/11 - our military and our intelligence warriors - are heroes, not pawns in some liberal game being played by the ACLU and Senator Feinstein. These men and women are not torturers, they are patriots. **The programs being used were within the law, within the constitution....**”
- Proponent of Guantanamo: Pompeo is a leading advocate of keeping the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay open, [asserting](#), “GTMO has been a goldmine of intelligence about radical Islamic terrorism... **The detainees at GTMO are treated exceptionally well** - so well that some have even declined to be resettled, instead choosing to stay at GTMO.”